

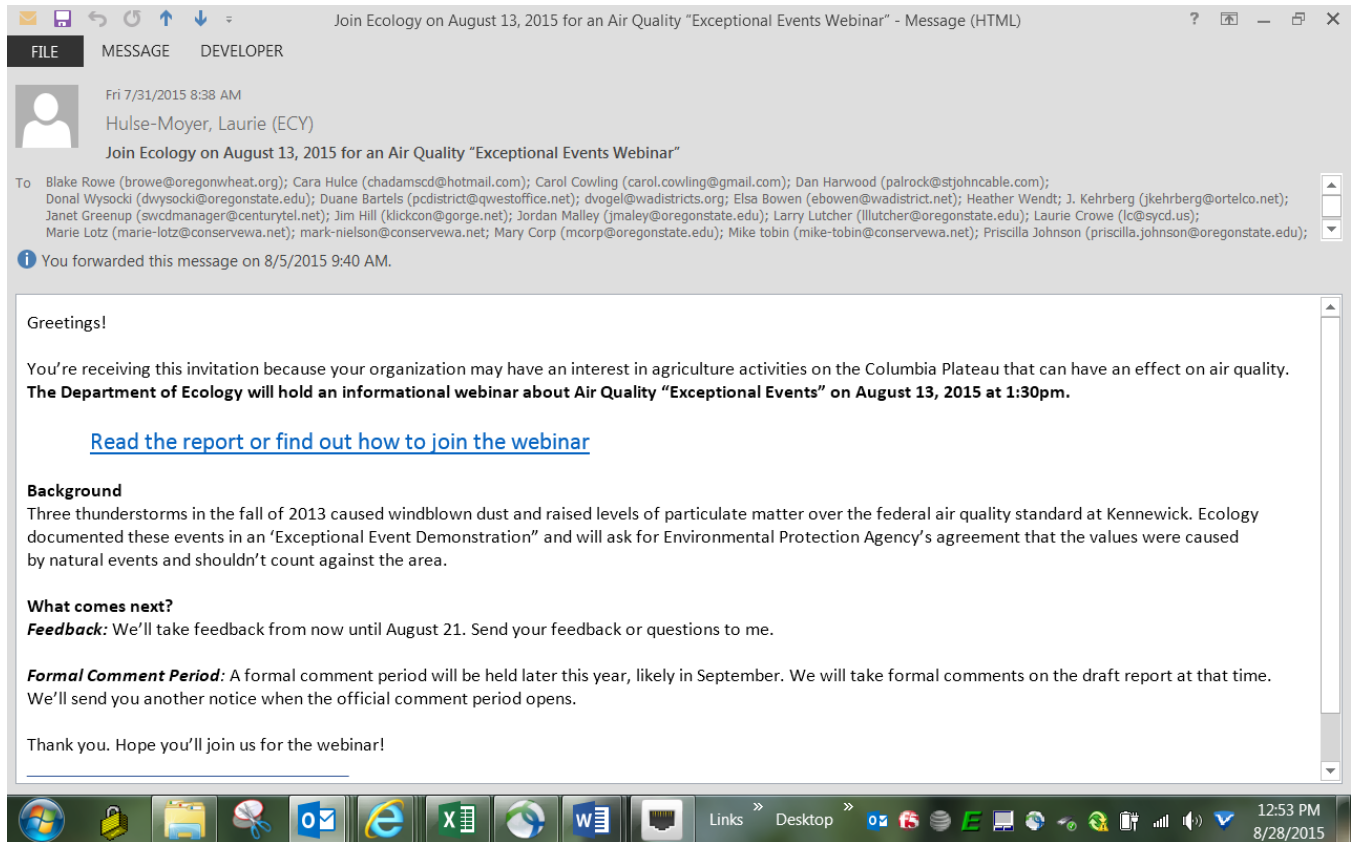
Appendix I. Public Process Documents

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Announcing Webinar/Preview period

Email Invite to Webinar to Agricultural Organizations/Interested Parties



Distribution List of Organizations

Far West Agribusiness Association
Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington State Crop Improvement Association
Washington State Hay Growers Association

Washington State Horticultural Association
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington Beef Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association

Environment

Audubon Washington
Climate Solutions
Columbia Basin Development League
Columbia-Pacific Resource Conservation and Development Council
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice
Earthcorps
Earthshare of Washington
Environmental Education Association of Washington
Friends of the Trail
Futurewise
Green Strategies
Heart of America Northwest
International Erosion Control Association - PNW Chapter
Izaak Walton League of American, Greater Seattle Chapter
Nature Conservancy – Washington Chapter
North Cascades Conservation Council
(Northwest Environment Watch) Sightline Institute
Northwest Environmental Business Council
Northwest Environmental Education Council
Northwest Intentional Communities Association (NICA)
Sierra Club Washington State Chapter
Society for Ecological Restoration (NW Chapter)
Washington Association of Conservation Districts
(Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation) Zero Waste Washington
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington Environmental Council
Washington State Conservation Commission
Washington State Environmental Health Association

Government & Politics

Association of Washington Cities
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America - Washington State Chapter
Respiratory Care Society of Washington
Washington Association of County Officials
Washington Research Council

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington State Grange
Washington State Hospital Association
Washington State Medical Association
Washington State Public Health Association

Benton County Commissioners

Jerome Delvin
Shon Small
James R. Beaver

Franklin County Commissioners

Brad Peck
Rick Miller
Robert E. Koch
copy Adam Fyall

Oregon State-added corrected email

Jordan Maley
Mary Corp
Sandy Macnab

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Air Quality</h2>			
<p><u>AIR QUALITY</u></p> <p>Motor Vehicles</p> <p>Agricultural Burning</p> <p>Outdoor Burning</p> <p>Indoor Burning</p> <p>Standards and Plans</p> <p>Air Monitoring</p> <p>Air Quality Requirements for Business & Industry</p> <p>Air Emissions Inventory</p> <p>Regional Haze</p> <p>Washington Clean Air Agencies</p>	<p>Air Quality > Other Air Quality Page Links > Windblown & Construction Dust Information</p> <h3>Outdoor Dust</h3> <div> HEALTH & DUST INFORMATION MANAGEMENT EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS OTHER </div> <p>Outdoor dust occurs throughout Washington, but in dry areas like Eastern Washington, dust is a significant air pollution problem. If you live in Eastern Washington, you have probably experienced dust storms. From spring through fall, high winds in the Columbia Plateau region can combine with dry weather conditions to disturb farm fields and other areas with disturbed soils resulting in dust storms. These dust storms can lead to extremely high levels of particle air pollution.</p> 		
	<h3>Current News and Information</h3>		
	<p>Publications</p> <p>Forms</p> <p>Databases</p> <p>Laws & Rules</p> <p>Current Rule Making</p> <p>Public Records</p> <p>Contract Opportunities</p> <p>Contact Us</p>	<p>Preview the Draft Exceptional Event Report</p> <p><i>Three unusual thunderstorms created strong winds and dust in Eastern Washington in 2013. The storms overwhelmed agriculture erosion controls and caused air pollution from dust to exceed federal standards. Ecology's report shows that the dust storms were "Exceptional Events" and is asking EPA to leave out the values from these events when determining compliance with air quality standards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Exceptional Event Demonstration Report 	<p>Attend Exceptional Event Webinar</p> <p>Ecology will present on the report being submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency via webinar.</p> <p>Date: August 13, 2015 When: 1:30 pm</p> <p><u>Join the Webinar</u></p>

	<p>Appendix A: Demonstration Completion Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix B: Regional Information • Appendix C: September 15 Information • Appendix D: October 28 Information • Appendix E: November 2 Information • Appendix F: Agriculture Information • Appendix G: 2003 Columbia Plateau NEAP Update • Appendix H: 2006 NEAP Status Report • Appendix I: Public Process Documents <p>Frequently Asked Questions</p>	
	<p>2015 Forecast: Dust storms and wildfires ahead for Central and Eastern Washington</p> <p>The same conditions that set the stage for the drought - above-average temperatures and low snowpack - are also expected to create dry fields and forest beds in Central and Eastern Washington.</p>	
	<p>Your Health and Dust</p> <p>Dust is made up of tiny particles (particulate matter.) The smallest particles, known as PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, are too small to be filtered out by your nose and your body's other natural defense systems. Dust with these fine particles is inhaled deep into your lungs where they cause increased problems with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lung irritation • emphysema • asthma • bronchitis • cancer • heart disease • allergic reactions 	

- other serious conditions that can lead to death

Who should take special precautions?

Breathing too much dust can potentially harm anyone. However, the following groups are at the highest risk:

- Infants, children, teens, the elderly, and pregnant women
- People with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or other respiratory conditions
- People with heart disease
- Healthy adults working or exercising outdoors (for example, agricultural workers, construction workers, and runners)

How to protect yourself and others

Since small dust particles are the most harmful, the best precaution is simply to avoid going outside when there is a lot of dust in the air.

If you must go out:

- spend as little time outside as possible
- Avoid hard exercise
- Wear some type of covering over your nose and mouth
- staying out of areas of dust
- When driving, be alert for sudden changes in visibility and pull over if you have trouble seeing.

Dust Storm Warnings and Notices

Sometimes it's possible to know that a dust storm may occur. Most dust storms happen in the spring or fall, because of a combination of high winds, dry weather conditions, and uncovered fields. The National Weather Service announces high wind warnings, so your local news may be able to warn you in advance when conditions are ripe for a dust storm. You can sign up to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts about high wind warnings from the National Weather Service (visit <http://www.weather.gov/subscribe> for more information). The best thing to do is always be prepared.

How to Prepare for Dust Storms

Windblown dust can't be completely controlled or avoided, but there are some things you can do to protect yourself during a dust storm. Be ready to stay inside and close your windows, vents, and doors, and plug drafts. If you have allergies or breathing problems, ask your health care provider or local health

department what they recommend. If they suggest wearing a mask during a dust storm, buy some and keep them on hand. If dust is a serious health problem for you, your health care provider may advise you to be ready to leave the area during a dust storm.

Reduce Your Risk from Dust Storms

There are some things we can do to prevent windblown dust; but even our best efforts can be overwhelmed by drought and high winds. Farmers prevent and reduce dust by using less intensive tilling methods and planting cover crops that hold the soil in place. Dust controls at construction sites include working in phases to minimize the amount of exposed land area, and using dust suppressants or gravel on bare ground. Contact your local clean air agency or city or county planning department if there is a dust problem in your area. Big dust storms can't be prevented, but throughout Washington, Ecology and our partners monitor air quality to measure amounts of pollution in the air. This helps pinpoint areas with levels of pollution that could cause health problems so we can work toward reducing and controlling pollution.

Dust Management

Ecology monitors the air for dust in many areas of Washington. Monitors track air quality to find out if areas meet national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS.)

When an exceptional event, like a thunderstorm, causes fine particle pollution to exceed the federal air pollution standards Ecology reports this to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Others Who Help Manage Dust

Local governments, the Environmental Protection Agency and others are also part of managing outdoor dust:

- [Local air agencies](#) and city planning departments enforce rules that require dust control.
- The federal Clean Air Act requires EPA to review NAAQS (standards) every 5 years to make sure the standards protect human health and the environment. The standards must protect groups of people who are most at risk from air pollution.
- Farmers help by using voluntary practices that stabilize their fields to preserve soil and keep dirt from leaving their farms. See [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#)

Outdoor Dust Categories

Dust is categorized three ways:

1. Windblown dust
 - Tilled, harvested, and fallow farm fields
 - Natural areas during highest winds
2. Construction dust
 - While work is underway
 - Cleared and vacant land
3. Fugitive dust
 - Paved and unpaved roads
 - Activities on vacant land or disturbed areas
 - Unpaved parking lots and equipment yards
 - Military training exercises

Exceptional Events

An exceptional event is an unusual or naturally-occurring event that can affect air quality, but cannot be reasonably controlled. Under air pollution laws, exceptional events are regulated differently than other sources of air pollution. For example, if a storm causes monitor readings to go over the federal limit and EPA agrees the reading was beyond our control, the high reading may be considered an exceptional event. The high reading then would not count when determining if an area meets the NAAQS standard.

Other Information:

- [Windblown Dust](#)
- [Dust Control Measures](#)
- [Techniques for Dust Prevention and Suppression](#)

For more information about dust control, contact your [Local air agency](#).

[Contact Us](#)



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DRAFT

Blog, August 10, 2015

<http://ecologywa.blogspot.com/2015/08/eastern-washington-dust-storms-trigger.html>

Monday, August 10, 2015

Eastern Washington dust storms trigger report to EPA

By Camille St. Onge, Communications Manager



September 15, 2013. Photo by Heather Wegant, NBCRightNow.com

In dry areas like Eastern Washington, dust is a significant air pollution problem. If you live in Eastern Washington, you have probably experienced the large desert-style dust storms known as haboobs.

From spring through fall, high winds in the Columbia Plateau region can combine with dry weather conditions to form strong winds that sweep up dust from farm fields and produce fierce dust storms. These dust storms can lead to extremely high levels of particle air pollution.

While dust storms are not uncommon in Eastern Washington, they sometimes are so extreme that they cause local air quality measurements to exceed federal air quality standards.

Three unusual thunderstorms

That's what happened in 2013, when three unusual storms created strong winds and dust in Eastern Washington. The storms overwhelmed agriculture erosion controls and caused air pollution from dust to exceed federal air quality standards. [Ecology has developed a report](#) about the storms which we will soon submit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report demonstrates that these three strong wind storms were exceptional events and concludes they were:

- Caused by nature.

- The cause of the high levels of particle pollution.
- Powerful enough to overwhelm the USDA-National Resource Conservation Service dust control measures in place throughout the area.



An exceptional event is an unusual or naturally-occurring event that can affect air quality, but cannot be reasonably controlled. If a storm causes air quality monitor readings to go over the federal limit and EPA agrees the reading was beyond our control and meets other required criteria, the high reading may be considered an exceptional event. The high reading then would not count when determining whether an area meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Ecology will ask the EPA to exclude the high level of particle pollution recorded during these strong wind storms from calculations used to determine whether the region meets the National Air Quality Standards. Excluding the high readings ensures the affected communities do not suffer significant impacts from an event that was beyond their control. Potentially, exceeding the air quality standards could impact transportation planning, business permitting and federal highway funding.

Attend exceptional dust event webinar

If you're interested in learning more about Ecology's report to the EPA, it's easy to get involved. Ecology is hosting a [webinar](#) at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13 to go over the report being submitted to the EPA.

To learn more about exceptional event dust storms [read our FAQ](#) or visit Ecology's [Outdoor Dust web page](#).

Posted by Camille St. Ongeat [3:22 PM](#)

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Labels: [dust storm](#), [haboob](#), [Washington dust storms](#)

No comments:

[Post a Comment](#)

Webinar link

Link to webinar will be posted at [Ecology's Outdoor Dust page](#).

Announcing comment period – to be entered later.

Email and association list

Calendar notice

Legal notice

News Release

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